

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 05641 132112Z
ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2895

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 5641

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PINT, ES, US
SUBJECT: CASE OF COL. MANUEL ALFONSO RODRIGUEZ

1. IN MY CALL ON PRESIDENT MOLINA LAST WEDNESDAY (DEC 8)
HE BROUGHT UP SUBJECT OF COL. RODRIGUEZ' CONVICTION AND SENTENCE,
STATING THAT COL. RODRIGUEZ' WIFE HAD MADE ANOTHER PLEA TO HIM
TO INTERCEDE ON HER HUSBAND'S BEHALF. HE ALSO GAVE ME AND
FOREIGN MINISTER COPIES OF LETTER HE HAD RECEIVED FROM NEW
LAWYERS ON CASE, BAGGI, EHRLICH AND LANG (299 BROADWAY,
NEW YORK, NY 10007, TELEPHONE 212-233-1177) AND SIGNED BY
GORDON J. LANG QTE PERSONALLY - NOT FOR THE FIRM UNQTE. HE
SAID HE WAS GIVING COPY OF LETTER TO NO ONE ELSE, AND SAID
WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS TO HELP HIM PREPARE ANSWER.

2. THE LETTER CONTAINS A PROPOSAL THAT PRESIDENT MOLINA
REQUEST DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY FOR COL. RODRIGUEZ WHICH IN
AN APPEAR AND QTE AS REFLECTION OF CONCERN OF EL SALVADOR
UNQTE COULD BE QTE INFLUENTIAL IN THE APPLICATION FOR A REDUCED
SENTENCE UNQTE. THE LETTER SAYS THAT QTE IF YOUR GOVERNMENT
ASSUMES THE POSTURE THAT THE COLONEL WAS ON A DIPLOMATIC MISSION
AND REQUESTS THAT THE US RECOGNIZE THIS, IT IS APOLITICAL
QUESTION AND THE COURTS WILL FOLLOW THE RECOMMENDATIONS
MADE BY THE US STATE DEPARTMENT IN RESPONSE TO YOUR
REQUEST UNQTE. THEN THE LETTER STATES QTE THE IMMEDIATE
DEPORTATION OF COLONEL RODRIGUEZ WHICH THE JUDGE IS
EMPOWERED TO GRANT WOULD SOLVE ALL THE PROBLEMS IS IMMUNITY
AND WE WOULD REQUEST THE COURT TO TREAT THE MATTER OF
IMMUNITY IN SUCH A MANNER AS TO RETAIN ITS CONFIDENTIALITY
UNQTE. MR. LANG SAID HE CONSIDERED THIS COURSE OF ACTION
REASONABLE AND SOMETHING WHICH IN HIS OPINION COULD BE AC-
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PAGE 02 SAN SA 05641 132112Z

COMPLISHED.

3. I DO NOT INTEND GIVE ANY COMMENTS OR OPINION TO PRESIDENT
MOLINA UNLESS THE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTS ME TO DO SO. I
WILL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH FONMIN BORGONOVO AND TRY TO
ASCERTAIN WHAT MOLINA'S REPLY IS. COPY OF LETTER BEING
SENT BY POUCH TO DESK TODAY.
LOZANO

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NNN

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